

San Antonio Light.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

Collection of Documents for the History of Texas.

BY LORENZO CASTRO.

The writer of this article has for years past been engaged in making a collection of documents for the history of Texas from its early discovery to the date of the independence of Mexico from Spain. He has examined the archives at the cities of Mexico, San Luis Potosi, Saltillo, Monterey, and Laredo, and regrets to say that there have been so perished that little or nothing is to be found in them, for instance, all documents concerning Texas, which formed part of the archives of Nuevo Leon were given by the secretary of state, Don Manuel G. Rejon, to Don Antonio Quintana, who lost them during the war. Most of those in the City of Mexico were sold to the manufacturers of fire crackers and retail grocers by distinguished men for purposes of making money out of them. A distinguished author, Don Carlos Bustamante, alluding to this act of vandalism, says that only wild Indians could be guilty of such an outrage at the present time.

REPORT OF COLONEL DON JUAN NEPOMUCENO ALMONTE, TEXAS IN 1834. CONTENTS:

Frontier of Texas; population and municipalities; colonies; sea ports; Indians tribes at peace; wild Indians; roads.

Although it has been believed that the river Nueces was the dividing line between Coahuila and Texas, according to maps published I have been informed by the geographers of the states that it was a great error, that really the dividing line between the two states began at the mouth of the Aransas and followed said river to its head and from that point with a right line to the mouth of the Medina and San Antonio rivers, thence following the Medina river to its head springs, and from the head waters of Medina to the boundary line of Chihuahua. The boundary of the department of Bejar with Coahuila are these above described, and with the department of Brancas as follows: Beginning at the mouth of the La Vaca river following its west bank until it strikes the southern boundary of what was known as Green DeWitt colony, leaving the river and following said limit westward until coming to the Guadalupe river, then north-west following the western limit of said colony to the road leading from Bejar to Naegolches, and from that point northward until it strikes the Red river of Nuechotches. The area of this department is of about 10,000 square leagues, more or less. Its capital is San Antonio de Bejar, and its principal settlements are those of Bejar, residence of the political chief, Goliad or Bahia del Espiritu Santo, Victoria and San Patricio. Each department is governed by a political chief or chief of police who presides over the municipality of the chief town or capital, whose duty it is to see that the general state laws are enforced. He is selected by the government of the state upon the proposition of the different municipalities of the department.

POPULATION AND MUNICIPALITIES.

Municipalities.	Population in 1880.	Population in 1894.
Bejar	7,000	2,500
Goliad	1,000	200
Victoria	1,000	300
San Patricio	1,000	300
4	8,000	3,300

Total population of the department 4,000. There are four missions in the vicinity of Bejar, but only two of them are inhabited at present, the others are abandoned

and the same thing has taken place with the mission situated at Goliad. There are various colonies in the department, but only two of them have prospered—one of Mexicans on the Guadalupe situated on the road from Goliad to San Felipe, and the other Irish, situated on the Nueces river on the road leading from Matamoros to Goliad. The population of the department of Bejar, with the exception of San Patricio, consists entirely of Mexicans.

SEA PORTS.

That of El Copano appears to be the one that possesses the greatest depth of water, according to the best information that I obtain in Bejar there is from 15 to 16 feet of water on the bar and from 19 to 12 in the bay of Aransas, small boats can anchor at a short distance from the mainland. Although there is no running stream emptying at Copano, the rain water is good and cisterns can easily be constructed. This port of Copano is well situated for a maritime custom house. The land is high and there is enough timber in its vicinity. The Aransas river is about eight miles distant and the Refugio creek at about the same distance. There are two roads from this port to Goliad—one a wagon road and the other a trail. The distance between the two places is from 10 to 12 leagues. The anchorage is excellent and can admit over 100 ships. It is eight leagues distant from the bar, which can easily be defended by building a fort at the mouth of the bay, as can clearly be seen by looking at the map of Texas.

This department has two more ports, that of Corpus Christi, situated south of Copano, and that of El Sabinito, situated northward in the bay of Matagorda at the mouth of the San Antonio and Guadalupe rivers. The latter point is reached by entering by Pass del Chuallo and steering westward. Ships that draw only six feet of water can safely ride into the ports of Corpus Christi and Sabinito. The port of El Copano has been occasionally visited by ships, but at present there is only one house there.

INDIAN TRIBES AT PEACE.

There are in the vicinity of Goliad some remnants of the following Indian tribes, viz: the Coahuila, Cocas, Carancahuas and Jaramies. Of the first two tribes there remains about 10 to 12 families, of the Carancahuas from 10 to 15 families, and of the Jaramies from 5 to 20 families. The Carancahuas formerly lived at the mission of El Refugio, founded in 1791, which to-day is abandoned, near the port of Copano. These Indians were in the habit of having their children baptized at Goliad, but as they have of late committed many robberies. They are now roaming about the lagoons along the coast. They are first-class fishermen, good swimmers—almost raised in the water—and it is probable that if they were employed as sailors would prove themselves very useful, at present they are the best pilots of the bays of Matagorda and Aransas. They do not use any other arms but their bows and arrows. It has been said that they were cannibals, but I believe that to be a false.

The Jaramies are a peaceful tribe of Indians who live at a place called El Oso, situated about 15 miles from the bay on the San Antonio river. There they have established a small settlement where they cultivate corn, onions, garlic and other vegetables that they take to the Goliad market. A priest from Zacaatoca, Father Diaz, was the founder of that small colony and spent his own

private fortune for the benefit of these people. His memory should have been perpetuated for his life of disinterestedness to his fellow men.

There were other friendly tribes of Indians that were exterminated by the Comanches and Tehuacanos, and the only one known to-day are the Lipanas, who reside actually in Coahuila.

WILD INDIANS.

Of all the departments of Texas the one most exposed to excursions of wild Indians is that of Bejar. The principal enemies are the Comanches and Tehuacanos. The latter range between the head of the Guadalupe and San Marcos rivers, and the former in the canon de Ugalde and head waters of the San Saba, extending their range the other side of the mountains to Chihuahua and New Mexico. It is the general belief that the Comanches can muster from three to four thousand warriors, but as they never move in large bodies, because they have no chief to lead them, and because they do not recognize the supremacy of any chief, the consequence is that they never act under a general preconceived plan of attack, but on the contrary act independently—each chief heading 50 to 100 warriors at most. The greatest number of warriors they have ever been able to unite together being 300 men. From what is stated above it can be seen that 600 men could scour the country in all directions, and fighting them in detail, in course of two or three years they could be entirely annihilated. They generally all ride on horseback, they are good horsemen; their weapons consist of bows and arrows, a lance, a knife, and sometimes an American rifle. Their tactics, or mode of attack consists in making an impetuous charge upon their enemies, dividing into two columns, but if they lose three or four of their warriors in their first charge they scarcely make another, even when their enemies are inferior in number. It is calculated that one Mexican is equal to five of them.

The Tehuacanos number from 200 to 300 warriors, and although much inferior in number to the Comanches, they are more dangerous and commit more depredations, because they are more cunning and more accustomed to the use of fire arms. They always travel on foot and very rarely ride on horseback. There is also another reason why the wild Indians cannot move in large bodies, and that is on account of subsistence, as they rely entirely upon their hunting for subsistence. A body of one or two thousand men could not maintain themselves with that only resource for a living, and on account of the great number of horses they generally take with them—each Comanche warrior taking with him at least three horses. The grazing would hardly support that number of animals.

ROADS.

The roads in the department of Bejar and of Texas in general are good and one can travel from Mexico to the United States in a carriage without inconvenience, etc.

Important to Men.

If you want a fine fitting suit, made of the best imported German, English, French or Scotch goods, for the full value of your money, call on Val Lora, the merchant tailor, next to the Commerce street bridge. Mr. Lora is a No. 1 in his business, being a practical cutter and tailor, and by giving his personal supervision to his manufacturing department, always guarantees his work and leaves nothing undone to please his customer every time. When you want good work for your good money be sure and call on Val Lora.

Pitch upon the best course in life, and custom will render it the most easy.—Tillotson.

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO.

Points of Interest to Tourist Visiting our Beautiful and Historic City.

THE OLD MISSIONS.

The Alamo, is situated on Alamo plaza.

The Concepcion, situated on the left bank of the river, two miles below the city. The foundation stone was laid March 5th, 1731.

The San Jose de Aguayo, situated four miles below the city, on the right bank of the river.

The San Juan Capistrano, six miles below the city on the west side of the river, established 1731.

The San Francisco de la Espada, several miles further down the river.

The historic cathedral of San Fernando, between Main and Military Plazas.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST.

San Pedro Springs, a beautiful park, handsomely laid out in shaded walks, artificial lakes, rustic bridges and miniature islands.

San Antonio Springs, the fountain head of San Antonio river. A wonderful sight of a most wonderful nature.

San Antonio Water Works, situated near the head of the San Antonio river.

U. S. Quartermasters Depot. From the top of Lookout Tower, the finest view can be had of San Antonio and surroundings.

Military Plaza should never be neglected, either early in the morning or more especially at night, where can be seen a novel sight, peculiar to the customs of Mexico.

Street cars and elegant hacks all over the city.

Does Prohibition Prohibit.

(From the Sunny South, Atlanta, Ga.)

We are inclined to think that, in a measure, prohibition does prohibit. It is a deep and strong feeling, entertained by a large, intelligent, and most respectable class of people that the sale of intoxicating drink should be forbidden by law, and it would be a very wonderful thing if this sentiment, crystallized into statute, should be merely nugatory. We do not think that it is nugatory but, on the contrary that it is, to a great degree, effectual. The question, therefore, as to whether prohibition prohibits is one that has its answer, but another and graver question arises to our minds, namely, will prohibition last? This question has been suggested by certain official statistics lately made public. The commissioner of internal revenue reports that from 1870 to 1885 the production of ardent spirits decreased, but that the last fiscal year shows an enormous increase, the amount being 50,344,180 gallons, or 7,510,182 over the year preceding. He also reports that, while the tax paid last year, on removals from warehouse was 1,000,000 over that of last year the increased production was no great that the balance in stock is 4,000,000 gallons in excess. He further shows that the number of distilleries in active operation has increased, and, lately, states that in July, August and September, 1886, the production of spirits was 2,000,000 gallons greater than in the corresponding period of 1885.

But one conclusion can be arrived at from these facts and figures, and that is, that the pendulum of prohibition has begun to swing back. The successful agitation of the temperance question from 1870 to 1885 steadily pressed the production of liquor down, but now, all of a sudden, and just as prohibition seems in the high ascendant, when state after state and community after community has wheeled into line, these cold-blooded figures announce that the demand for ardent spirits has enormously increased. The increase for the year is 7,500,000 gallons, and for the latter portion of the year at a rate greater even than that, showing a constant augmenting ratio. John Barleycorn seems, like Antea, to have gotten new strength from his fall.

Those, though highest in place, who alight and disoblige their friends, shall infallibly come to know the value of them by having none when they shall most need them.—South.

GEMS OF THOUGHT.

Nothing can make a man truly great but being truly good, and partaking of God's holiness.—Matthew Henry.

Religion is the most gentlemanly thing of the world. It alone will gentileize if unmixed with cant.—Coleridge.

It is the triumph of civilization that at last communities have obtained such a mastery over natural laws that they drive them and control them. The winds, the water, electricity, all agents that in their wild form were dangerous are controlled by human will, and are made useful servants.—Beecher.

The mind is its own place, and in itself can make heaven of hell, a hell of heaven.—Milton.

No way has been found for making heroism easy, even for the scholar. Labor; iron labor is for him. The world was created as an audience for him; the atoms of which it is made are opportunities.—Emerson.

Nobody knows New England who is not on terms of intimacy with one of its elms. The elm comes nearer to having a soul than any other vegetable creature among us.—Holmes.

Laughing, if loud, ends in a deep sigh and all pleasure has a sting in the tail, though they carry beauty on the face.—Jeremy Taylor.

The laws of our religion tend to the universal happiness of mankind.—Tillotson.

A lie has no legs and cannot stand; but it has wings and can fly far and wide.—Bishop Warburton.

They who marry give hostages to the public that they will not attempt to ruin and disturb the peace of it.—Atterbury.

We should do nothing inconsistent with the spirit and genius of our institutions. We should do nothing for revenge, but everything for security; nothing for the past, everything for the present and future.—Garfield.

They who pass through a foreign country to their native home do not usually give up themselves to the pleasures of the place.—Atterbury.

That which seems most casual and subject to fortune is yet determined by the ordinance of God.—Sir Walter Scott.

One great reason why many children abandon themselves wholly to silly sports, and trifle away all their time idly, is because they have found their curiosity balked.—Locke.

Any man who puts his life in peril in a cause which is esteemed, becomes the darling of all men.—Emerson.

In the man whose childhood has known carelessness there is always a fibre of memory that can be touched to gentle issues.—George Elliot.

TURNER HALL BAR.

Ed. Disselhorst, Proprietor.—The Finest Wines, Liquors and Cigars Always on Hand to Suit the Patrons.

This is one of the pleasant resorts of the State City, conveniently located in the Turner Hall building on East Houston street, where everything is kept in first class style, and strangers passing through, or staying over city, will find it a pleasant place to spend their leisure hours, being fully assured that they will not be brought in contact with any of the rough element usually found in bars. Mr. Ed. Disselhorst, the proprietor, is one of God's noblemen himself and never tolerates any such element in his place of business. When you need anything in the way of liquid refreshments be sure and call on Ed., who will serve you with an eye-open, a night-cap, or an apéritif to your hearty content.

This is One of Them.

The poorest advertiser in this city is Joe Beckman, the boot and shoe man, No. 271 Commerce street. He does not advertise so and so many thousand dollars worth of boots and shoes at cost, he says, because he does not buy such bad stock; he knows too much about his business to sell goods made by him, consequently, has no stock he is compelled to sell at cost to get rid of. He never sells shoes at cost, has no old stock to sell off. But he does sell good boots and shoes cheaper than his competitors do the same quality. He also makes boots and shoes to order, and says when once a man has one pair made by him, he gives them such good satisfaction that the customer becomes a walking advertisement for him. He lets his work advertise for him, and, consequently, needs no newspaper advertisement. He sells the world renowned Douglas \$2.00 shoe, for his hat, sole agent, and as a practical shoe maker, recommends them to surpass any \$3.00 in the country.